

EFFECTIVE BIBLE READING

Reasons to Study the Bible

Course Number 1004

Instructor, Dr. Hymethia W.
Thompson

State Director WGBSC

Dr. Robert T. Wilson, President

Phase I Requirement

Time: Ten (10) Hours

SSPB-Nashville, TN

Reasons to Study the Bible

Reason #1

Because Christian theology has always
firmly
declared that **GOD IS ALL-WISE.**

A Wise God

- If God is all-wise, should we ever take pleasure in being otherwise?
- If God is all-wise then we should want to be more like God.
- We should desire to be wise in the ways and will of God

A systematic process

- We become wise in the ways and will of God by personally knowing Him and by systematically studying His Word.

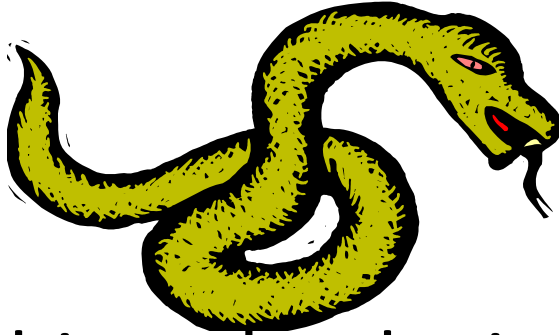
Activity

Discussion

What is the meaning of “systematically”?

How can we become more like God?

A process steeped in reasons



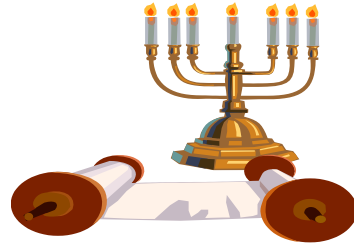
- In this technological and scientifically intelligent world, we need to know God as intimately and biblically as possible, so that we can be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves”.

Reasons to study the Bible

Reason #2

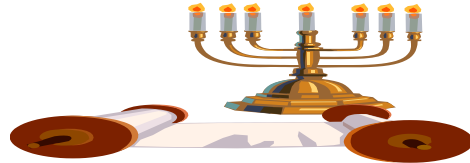
- Secondly, The Church should have a vital and systematic teaching ministry because the Bible commands it.
- As far back as Deuteronomy, the Israelites were commanded to teach the law of God to their children on a systematic basis:

God said to his people...



“Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD, your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which are crossing over to possess...”

God Said...



That you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

God said...



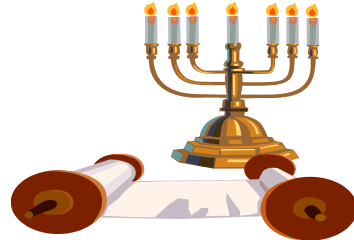
Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you- 'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

God said...



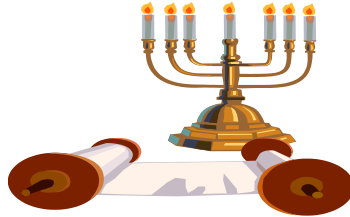
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You should love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength”

God said...



“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up...

God said...



...You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates”.

You decide...



- If that was a requirement for people under the Old Covenant, how much more is it necessary for us who are under the New Covenant to teach systematically the Word of God to our children today?

Where is Jesus on the Church's teaching ministry?

- Jesus was very serious about the teaching and “Bible Study” ministry of the Church.
- Also, the early Church was serious about the centrality of the teaching ministry.
- The New Testament Church took its cue from Jesus.

Two passages of Scripture

- Matthew 28:19-20
- Acts 2:41-42
- In both of these passages, the Church took Jesus' teaching ministry seriously and implemented it SYSTEMATICALLY.

They remembered Jesus said...

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,...teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:19-20

They remembered...

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; ...And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine [teaching]...

Acts 2:41-42

What doctrines are yet so important?

Answer: All of the doctrines Jesus taught his disciples.

Exactly what are these doctrines?

The List

- God
 - a. God the Father
 - b. God the Son
 - c. God the Holy Spirit
- Word of God (Bible)
- Man(humanity)
- Salvation

The List (cont.)

a. Regeneration

1) Repentance

2) Faith

3) Justification

b. Sanctification

c. Glorification

- God's Purpose of Grace

- The Church

The List (cont.)

- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper
- The Lord's Day
- The Last Thing (Eschatology)
- Missions and Evangelism
- Stewardship
- The Fruit of the Spirit
- The Gifts of the Spirit
- And others

Now we see

- Each new convert in the early Church was taught the doctrines of the Church.
- They were educated in the “milk” as well as the “meat” of the faith.
- If we are going to have strong effective churches, we too, must be serious about teaching all that the Lord has commanded.

We must be serious

- We must be serious about teaching the “apostles” doctrines.
- Every member of the church should not only have an intimate experience with the Lord—an experience which the Bible calls “born again”, “conversion”, “saved” committed to the Lord,” etc. ---but every member must also be serious about the doctrines of the Lord.

Theology

Howard P. Colson said of Findley B. Edge:

On the basis of his understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith, the teacher inevitably teaches theology. It is highly important, regardless of the age of the group being taught that the teacher be aware of the theology he is teaching and that it has been arrived at on the basis of a careful, intelligent study of teachings of scriptures...

No Excuse

- There is no excuse for church leaders not knowing and teaching the doctrines of the church—the Word of God.
- Acts 2:42 encourages serious teaching the doctrines of the Lord.
- Stresses the development of strong Christian Fellowship, which is easily understood by those who cannot easily grasp heavy theology.

Christian Fellowship

- They can understand a friendly, Christian smile or handshake.
- Teaching doctrine and participating in the warm fellowship of believers are extremely significant.
- Fellowship is to the Christian what water is to the fish.

It Depends on the Pastor

- Someone may ask, how do we develop and maintain a strong. Bible-teaching ministry in the church?
- First, the Pastor must be serious about and committed to this ministry.
- If Pastors are not serious and committed , the teaching ministry can live, but, not with the power and momentum that it could have if they had provided serious leadership.

It is Scriptural

- Ephesians 4:11-12, according to Paul, clearly states that the Pastor or pastor/teacher is “an equipper of the saints(the members)for the work of the ministry.
- This does not mean a pastor must teach a class, but must teach others to in order to facilitate the ministry.
- In some larger congregations, there is a salaried minister or director of Christian education who takes the greater responsibility for teaching lay persons how to teach the Word of God.

In Fact

- In smaller churches, the teaching and equipping role is done primarily by the pastor, at any rate the job must be done.
- The Church (especially lay persons) must be equipped to teach the Word of God, a word must be:
 - ❖ Biblically based
 - ❖ Doctrinally sound, and
 - ❖ Life-centered

Activity

Discussion

Give examples of a systematic teaching ministry.

Who is Jesus? Reason #3



- Jesus, the Master Teacher, mandated that the church should be serious about its(her) teaching ministry.
- Matthew, perhaps, emphasizes this as well as any of the Gospels

Jesus, Master Teacher



Matthew pictures Jesus as teacher par excellent: “And seeing the multitudes, He went up into the mountain: and when he was set [the Rabbis normally taught by remaining seated], his disciples came unto him: And He opened His mouth and TAUGHT them...”

Serious matter



- Let us further elaborate on the seriousness of Jesus' teaching ministry with His disciples, especially the twelve.

Time well-spent



- Jesus was so serious about teaching His twelve disciples that He spent three (3) years teaching them the will and message of God.

How Serious?

- For Jesus, teaching the Word and will of God was of utmost importance.
- Should it not be the same for us?

Who were Jesus' Disciples?



- Some people believe that Jesus' disciples were ignorant and unlearned. These misguided people have taken their clues from what some misguided Sadducees and Pharisees said about Jesus' disciples.

They were LEARNED and BOLD men

- Acts 4:13 states what these Sadducees and Pharisees said: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled...”

-Scruggs-

Well Educated

- Jesus' disciples had more than our modern day equivalent of a Ph.D. degree.
- Compare our modern theological education requirements with the disciples' training as they studied with Jesus, the Master Teacher.

Their Training far exceeds our Theologians'

- They had the best teacher.
- Nobody equals Jesus when it comes to teaching the Word and will of God.
- He is indeed, the Master Teacher.

Compare

| Today's Bachelor Hours | Today's MS Div. Hours | Today's D.Ph. D. | Total Semester Hours | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| 140 | 90 | 90 | 320 | |
| Jesus's Students' Study Hours | Days | Hours Per Day | Total Hours of Study (Per Years) | |
| 2,920 | 365 | 8 | 8,760 (2,920x3) | |
| | | | | |

Analysis

- A person with an earned Ph.D. in religion has put in about 360 semester hours.
- They are considered an expert in his field.
- Compared to the twelve disciples training with Jesus, sometimes day and night.
- Thus, the disciples spent about 8,760 hours with a Master Teacher.

Activity

Discussion

Church is not in it. Why?

How can Christians be bold?

The Bible is Timeless



Are you about to embark on a study that is or shortly will be out-of-date?

The Bible is fresh as the morning dew

The suspicion seems to be abroad that to study the Bible is a waste of time since it is a book that needs considerable updating.

As current as today's newspaper



A person who believes that (the bible is outdated) needs only to go to Israel and listen to the leaders quoting the Bible and showing how it is being fulfilled by the events occurring in that country today.

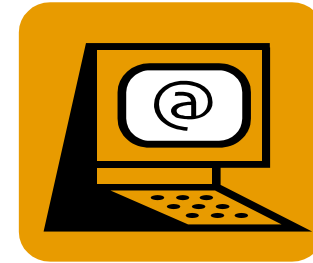
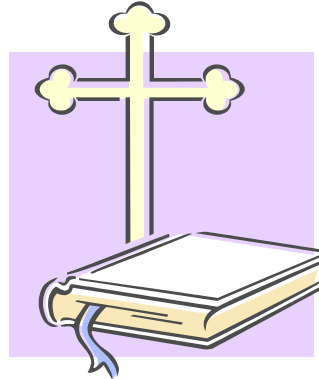
Believers among Doubters

- Even the *Reader's Digest*, printed an article entitled “ The Bible's Timeless Insights.”
- It is amazing to discover how frequently and from what unexpected quarters people keep coming back to the teachings of the bible.

The Bible is modern and important



Reason #4



A study of the Bible is both contemporary and highly relevant.

Activity

Discussion

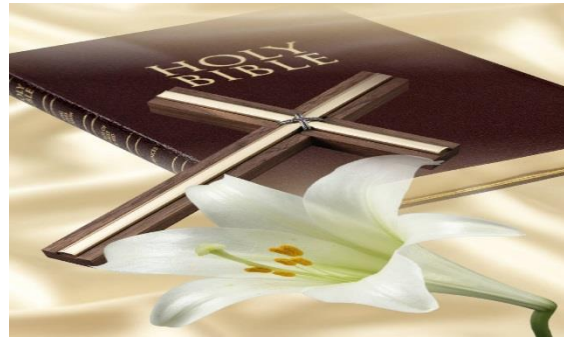
Give example of the Bible as a contemporary and relevant book.

Christian Authority



The evangelical Christian's basis of authority is found within the framework of the revelation of God.

It is in the Bible



- Perhaps you are surprised that I did not say it is found in the Bible. It is, but that is only part of the revelation of God.

The revelation of God is Key

- God has revealed Himself in various ways, and all of these are included in the framework which becomes the basis of authority for Christians.

In Nature

- God had revealed Him self in nature.



God has revealed Himself in History

For example: The Fall of Man



God in History-The Ordeal of Noah



God in History-The origin of David



Special Events

...And providential actions like preserving Moses who freed the Hebrew People.



In Miracles-Christ's resurrection



In Visions

Visions given to prophets and others...



God revealing Himself

Chiefly , God has revealed Himself in Christ and in the Bible.



Nature cannot completely reveal God

- Nature tells us certain things about God, but not too much really.
- The study of history from a Christian perspective is most rewarding, but that is not the purpose of this book.

The Bible teaches us about Christ

Reason #5

- What we know about Christ, we get it from the Bible; therefore, a study of the Bible is the most important means by which a Christian can come to know this basis of authority, which is the revelation of God.

Activity

Discussion

What is an evangelical Christian?

Be Encouraged

Reason #6

- Before embarking on this study, here is a word of encouragement: **God intended you to understand what the Bible teaches.**

An Endless Pursuit

- This does not mean that you will comprehend all its truths at first reading or even in a lifetime, but it does mean that you can expect to learn a great deal.

God's special language

- God used language that He meant to be taken just as normally and plainly as the words in this book.
- Take it that way and assume He means what He says.

You have a helper

- When a problem arises, look at it again and remember too that God promised that the Holy Spirit will also help you to understand His truth.

John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12

Activity

Discussion

What is the role of the third person in the Trinity? Read orally and explain the mentioned scriptures.

God revealed

- Through Jesus Christ, God revealed Himself (“exegeted” is the word in John 1:18) in clarity and detail.
- The miracles of Christ showed things like the glory of God. John 2:11

God's Care

Christ's words told of the Father's care.
(John 14:2)

Christ's person showed the Father. (John
14:9)

Know the Son, Know God

- The way to know God is to know His Son; and apart from the revelation through the Son, little is known of God.
- The other avenue of special revelation is the Bible. Some say that the Bible is a lesser revelation than the Son...

Know the Son

Reason #7

- And to make too much of it is to worship the Bible (bibliolatry).
- If we do not make much of the Bible, we then cannot know much of the Son, for our source of information about the Son, (and hence about the Father).

Trust in the Bible

- Furthermore, if the Bible is not to be trusted, then again we cannot know truth about the Son.
- If only certain parts of the Bible are trustworthy, we will end up with as many pictures of Christ as there are people picking the parts of the...

Accept the entire Bible

(biography) which they think are reliable.

- In other words, if the Bible is not completely true, then we end up with either misinformation or subjective evaluation.

Jesus Knew

- Jesus Himself asserted that the Bible revealed Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)
- And, of course, the Bible reveals many things about God.
- Think for an instance of the many aspects of His plan that are known only through the Bible and that tells us about Him.

The Bible's knowledge cannot be exceeded

- You might say that the Bible is an inexhaustible source of information about God.

-Ryrie-

Activity

Discussion

List other ways God reveals Himself.

References

1. Bible, KJV
2. Ryrie, Charles C., Understanding Bible Doctrine, Moody Press, Chicago, IL ISBN 0-8024-0258-5
3. Scruggs, Julius R., How to Study and Teach the Bible, Townsend Press, Nashville, Tennessee ISBN 0-910683-22-0